

**In the sands of Egypt behold the great pyramid of Giza. Monuments were very important to the Egyptians because the great pharaohs will be remembered by these places. You might have heard about the Great pyramids of Giza or maybe the Sphinx. The great pyramid was huge 481 feet tall. The Sphinx guards that pyramid with its 50 foot claws.**

### **Khufu's Great Pyramid of Giza**

**The Great pyramid of Giza is one of the great wonders of the world. There are three pyramids at Giza. First there is Khufu's Great pyramid and then his son Khafre constructed the second pyramid after him he created the last one the smallest of all. Khufu's great pyramid was the biggest 481 feet tall. The Great pyramids were located near the Nile River but still in the east part of Egypt because all burial places are on the east side (desert side). Khufu's pyramid was built at the end of the old kingdom. It took about twenty years to build and it was finished in 2595 BC. Eighty % of the mass of the pyramids is at its base and its base is 755 feet on each side. It contains 2.3 million blocks each weighing 2 and a half tons. Most of the workers were farmers working while their fields were underwater. They were paid with mostly barley, beer, and bread. To start building first they had to make the ground extremely flat or else the pyramid would collapse. After the base the workers had a problem how would they be able to reach the higher levels to build. Well, they used ramps to reach the levels. When the pyramid was almost finished a special block made of metal was placed on the very top of the pyramid. After the top was placed then they covered the whole pyramid with limestone. It was finished. After 20 years of hard work it was done. Some people believe that the pyramid is a staircase to Ra (sun god). Others believed that it launches the pharaohs Ka to the sky. But there were some extra rocks what would they do with that.**

## **The Sphinx**

**The Sphinx was the largest statue from Ancient times. Its 240 feet in length. Its feet alone are 50 feet long. The sphinx was made from the extra rocks and rubble from Khufu's tomb ( Great Pyramid of Giza). The Sphinx has the body of a lion and the face of a man ( probably Khufu's face). The body of a lion represents the belief that lions were guardians of Sacred places. The head is too small compared to the rest of the body. Originally the Sphinx was painted in beautiful colors. Archeologists can tell by one of the ears that is the only part of the Sphinx that still has color. Erosion is a major threat to the Sphinx. Its wearing away almost all the color and some parts of the feet, head and most of the Sphinx. But Archeologists are working to restore the Sphinx in all its glory.**

## **Zoser's Step Pyramid**

**The Step Pyramid was the first major work of stone in Egypt. Imhotep started with a square mastaba then a smaller one on top of that , and then a smaller one on top of that and so on. Eventually he had six mastabas on top of each other, higher than 200ft. Imhotep was the architect, chief official, and vizier of the Step Pyramid. Zoser was the Pharaoh and was buried in the Step Pyramid. Some people say that the Step Pyramid was intended for a member of Zoser's family instead of him. Located at Saqqara near Cairo it was the first royal pyramid. Before it they would make square mastabas. A rectangular flat-top structure made from stone or mud brick. It took 25 years to build and was made 100% out of stone. The steps symbolize the pharaoh's way up to the heavens where he could join Ra.**

**The Great Pyramid of Giza, The Sphinx, and The Step Pyramid were all symbolizing these great peoples accomplishments. The Great Pyramid of Giza with its one of the seven wonders of the world title. The Sphinx being the largest statue of ancient times. The Step Pyramid being the first royal pyramid. There were many monuments of Egypt but we are left these amazing monuments and a few others made by these amazing people.**